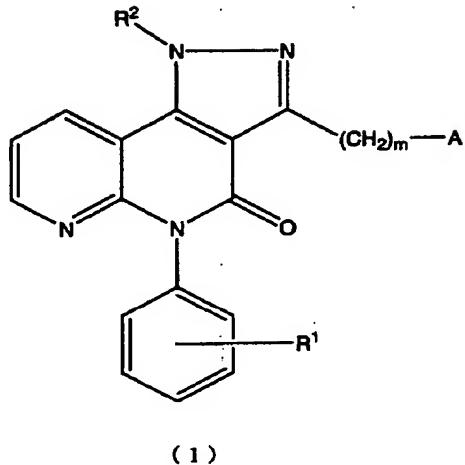


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula (1):



wherein:

A is phenyl, pyridyl, 1-oxypyridyl, or thieryl, which may be unsubstituted or optionally substituted with one or more members selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl, halogen, cyano, nitro, lower alkyl, lower alkoxy, lower alkylcarbonyloxy, amino, carboxyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, carboxy-lower alkylene, lower alkoxy carbonyl-lower alkylene, lower alkylsulfonyl, lower alkylsulfonylamino, and ureido;

R¹ is a group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxyl, halogen, cyano, nitro, lower alkoxy, amino, carboxyl, and lower alkoxy carbonyl;

R² is hydrogen or lower alkyl; and

m is an integer of 1 to 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein A is phenyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

3. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein A is pyridyl or 1-oxypyridyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable

salt thereof.

4. A compound, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is selected from the group consisting of
3-benzyl-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]-naphthyridin-4(5H)-one,
5-phenyl-3-[2-(1-oxypyridin-4-yl)ethyl]-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]-naphthyridin-4(5H)-one,
5-(3-nitrophenyl)-3-[2-(pyridin-4-yl)ethyl]-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]-naphthyridin-4(5H)-one,
3-(4-fluorobenzyl)-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]-naphthyridin-4(5H)-one,
3-(4-carboxymethylbenzyl)-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]naphthyridin-4(5H)-one,
3-(2-methoxybenzyl)-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]naphthyridin-4(5H)-one,
3-(2-nitrobenzyl)-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]naphthyridin-4(5H)-one,
3-(2,5-dimethoxybenzyl)-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]naphthyridin-4(5H)-one,
3-(4-ethoxycarbonylmethylbenzyl)-5-phenyl-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]naphthyridin-4(5H)-one,
3-benzyl-5-(3-cyanophenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]naphthyridin-4(5H)-one,
3-benzyl-5-(3-nitrophenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]naphthyridin-4(5H)-one and
3-benzyl-5-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazolo[4,3-c][1,8]naphthyridin-4(5H)-one.

5. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises an effective amount of a compound according to any of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. A phosphodiesterase IV inhibitor comprising an effective amount of a compound according to any of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. A drug for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of at least one member selected from diseases or abnormal conditions directly or indirectly related to phosphodiesterase IV, said drug comprising an effective amount of a compound according to any of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A drug comprising an effective amount of a compound according to any of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

said drug for preventing and/or treating at least one respiratory disease selected from the group consisting of:

bronchial asthma including chronic bronchial asthma and atopic asthma; acute bronchitis; chronic bronchitis; asthmatic bronchitis; pneumonic diseases; pulmonary emphysema; chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); and acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS).

9. An anti-asthmatic comprising an effective amount of a compound according to any of Claims 1 to 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.